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Sep 4th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am an IT manager for a local credit union in Hood River, Oregon. Hood River is a small rural town and our "main" telephone provider is CenturyLink. CenturyLink provided our DSL and phone service for decades but we had outgrown their service, it was too slow. They had no other affordable solutions. We actually began as the credit union for the local phone company so the decision to change our internet and phone provider wasn't taken lightly. However, with our competitive local broadband provider, GorgeNet, we were able to install fiber service which was desperately needed. We decided to install VoIP phone service as well.

Fiber provides internet service at the speed we need in order to keep up with the technologic demands of our industry. Not only was GorgeNet able to provide the service we needed, but they are also saving us hundreds of dollars per year.

Competition is healthy and allows small communities like ours to have services we need that the monopolies would not provide in our area.

Without our local broadband provider, we would not be able to provide the services needed to remain competitive in our industry. I truly don't know what we would have done if GorgeNet had not been able to provide fiber service.

It would be a devastating for small communities like ours to not have competitive broadband providers available to us.

Lisa Hobbs